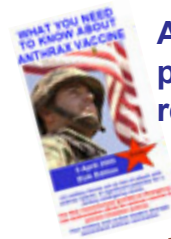




ALI TIMES



**Anthrax
program
resumes 6**

Vol. 3, Issue 25

407th Air Expeditionary Group, Ali Base, Iraq

July 1, 2005



Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael L. Dominguez takes a moment to talk with Master Sgt. Lloyd Hesseltine, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Wednesday. Secretary Dominguez spoke on various topics from the importance of the U.S. military's mission in Iraq to critical combat skill sets required by future Airmen at a troop call later that evening.

SECAF talks about present course in Iraq, future for Airmen in next 10 years

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

During acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael L. Dominguez's visit here, he said part of the reason he came was to pass on a message.

"I want to let you know how deeply ap-

preciated your service is by the men and women of the United States," said Secretary Dominguez.

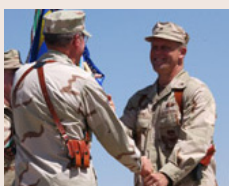
"There is a debate in our country about where we are going in Iraq, how long we'll be here and if we should have a deadline on operations here.

"That is a healthy part of our democracy

at work, but don't think for a minute that Americans don't support our men and women in uniform," he said, adding that only one outcome is definitive in his mind.

"What is clear and certain is this air base will be a part of a free, sovereign, democratic and prosperous Iraq, because of what

See SECAF Page 2



**332nd AEW
change of
command**

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**EOD responds
to UXO calls on
average of 1
per day**

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**July 4th
event
schedule**

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SECAF

Airmen must be comfortable with combat skills

Continued from Page 1

you've achieved here today," he said.

As in all other wars past, he acknowledged this battle is not without its risks.

"Iraq is a dangerous place still. The enemy is wily, crafty, tenacious, imaginative...if you can image the worst possible traits in the enemy – you got it," he said.

Secretary Dominguez stated he wished he had a crystal ball to tell Airmen where they would possibly deploy in the future, but he said there is one thing he knows for sure.

"The enemy we fight today is global and stateless... and that global nature is a challenge," he said. "We will go to where states are struggling to control what's happening inside their borders."

In order to take the fight to the enemy, he said the Air Force will have to think outside the box of traditional mission environments of the past.

"The future of the Air Force is expeditionary. It's joint, and it's working with the coalition and a lot of interagencies (joint endeavors among various governmental departments).

"You must continue to transform into an expeditionary force, and that's not just an Air and Space Expeditionary Force mentality. That's a whole new mindset. It means changing all your systems, processes and practices to think expeditionary."

He said it also means Airmen will have to learn new skills that traditionally were shouldered by their sister service counterparts in

the past.

"You'll be in some ugly places in terms of the security environment," said Secretary Dominguez. "We must continue creating Airmen who are comfortable with combat skills.

"In an expeditionary Air Force, the battle is right here, and you'll need to pick up that rifle and engage," he said.

He also said on the flip side of necessary force is the power of communication.

"Every Airman is an ambassador," he said. "You interface with the men and women of Iraq. You can either help us or set us back by months or years."

It's a privilege and responsibility all military members are aware of throughout the world, he said, but asked audience members to recognize the stakes are higher here.

"We are liberators, not conquerors," he said. "We are here to help create a nation that allows their countrymen to stand up and face the terror they're under every day."

As July 4 approaches, Americans will soon gather together to celebrate the tenacity and dedication our forefathers showed when building a nation free from oppressive rule.

While many will be barbecuing and swimming, American military members deployed far from home are monumentally tasked with helping a nation of people struggle from underneath the weight of oppression – to gain their own freedom and independence.

"We are here to find a way to help them celebrate their achievements. That's the skill of an ambassador. That's not something we did in the past, but a big piece of what we have to do in the future," he said.



Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander, briefs acting Secretary Michael L. Dominguez about the upgrades and progress Team Ali continues to make.

CC thanks Team Ali

Author and teacher William Arthur Ward once said, "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

I admit on first glance our little base looks a little tired when compared to some of the other bigger bases in the Southwest Asia Area of Responsibility. But it doesn't stop me from dreaming how we can continue to squeeze every ounce out of our resources and remain a critical asset to the warfighter.

Living in an austere location also didn't stop you from pulling out the stops for the Secretary of the Air Force visit Wednesday.

Together, we picked up, dusted off and shined anything that didn't move.

It paid off. Not only did the SECAF and his party take notice of how well our base's exterior looked, they also raved about how they could feel the pride radiating from every Airman they encountered.

You didn't just clean and prepare the base for them, you paved the way to show them what a great job you do day in and day out for this great nation.

I couldn't be prouder! During the troop call Secretary Dominguez personally told you he was impressed with your dedication and he could see you have your "head in the game."

More truer words couldn't have been spoken, and I'll say it again I'm proud to stand and work beside you!

For a tiny base in the middle of the desert with fewer resources and less glam than our bigger counterparts, we, rotation by rotation, have "become" and remain what we dreamed - a vital link to help Iraqis free themselves from oppression and build a better future for themselves and their children.



"The enemy we fight today is global and stateless... and that global nature is a challenge," he said. "We will go to where states are struggling to control what's happening inside their borders."

– Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael L. Dominguez

Acting SECAF attends Balad change of command

By Maj. Regina Winchester

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, IRAQ — Hundreds of Airmen including the acting Secretary of the Air Force and Iraqi Air Force chief of staff welcomed the newest commander for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at a change of command ceremony here today at 10 a.m.

Brig. Gen. Blair Hansen relinquished command to Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc in a ceremony officiated by Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III, Combined Forces Air Component Commander.

In attendance were Michael Dominguez, acting Secretary of the Air Force; Maj. Gen. Kamal Abdul Satar Al-Barazench, Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Air Force; Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, National Guard Bureau chief and Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Air Force Reserve chief.

Against a backdrop of the Balad Air Base flight line, General Buchanan remarked on the wing's importance in Iraq.

"The 332nd is integral to the Coalition effort from the ground up, literally. You do your operations in the style and spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen, and you can all be very proud of your accomplishments," the general said. He then presented General Hansen with a bronze star for his accomplishments as wing commander.

After receiving his award, General Hansen made his final comments as the wing commander.

"My single greatest take-away from my time here is my absolute confidence in our Airmen — in their high standards, selflessness and dedication. This command has been the highlight of my career," said General Hansen.

General Gorenc, who comes to Balad AB from Langley Air Force Base, Va., where he was the commander of the 1st Fighter Wing, took the guidon from the 332nd AEW command chief, Chief Mas-



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc (right) accepts the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing guidon from Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III during a change of command ceremony Wednesday. General Gorenc was previously the commander of the 1st Fighter Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

ter Sgt. Dennis Krebs, and officially assumed command.

Balad Air Base is home to the headquarters of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, located approximately 42 miles north of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle region. As the only U.S. Air Force expeditionary wing in Iraq, it is composed of almost 5,000 people spread out in various locations in Iraq. Its primary mission is to support the stabilization and reconstruction phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The wing traces its roots to the 332nd Fighter Group, best known for the famed Tuskegee Airmen first activated on July 4, 1942.

Bedrock fire emergency plan

Bedrock has two separate geographic areas for emergency evacuations:

North area: Row A through F

South Area: Row G through L

If residents hear the giant voice or any public address system, air horn or someone shouting "fire, fire, fire," they should proceed to the outside of the barriers by the most direct route available to their designated rally point in either the center of the north or south Bedrock parking lots. Look for rally point signs. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Joe Graves, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron fire assistant fire prevention chief, at 445-2079.



Ali Times celebrates Parent's Day July 24

Team Ali, here is your opportunity to tell your parents hello, let them know how you treasure them and thank them for helping you become the person you are today.

To participate, e-mail **60 words or less** to Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil **by July 15**. Responses will be printed in the July 22 Ali Times.

In 1994, former President Bill Clinton signed into law the resolution unanimously adopted by the U. S. Congress establishing the fourth Sunday of every July as **Parents' Day**, a perennial day of commemoration similar to Mother's Day and Father's Day. According to the *Congressional Resolution*, Parents' Day is established for "recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children." For more information on Parent's Day, go to the National Parent's Day council Web site at <http://www.parentsdays.com/>.

Patriotism...what it means to me

English-born, USAF captain reflects on earning U.S. citizenship, helping Iraqis earn freedom from oppression

"I pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God, indivisible with...

On Sept. 16, 1996, I spoke the above words along with 3,000 other immigrants. As I cradled my six-week-old daughter in my left arm, I held up my right hand to be sworn in as America's newest citizen. That day was a defining moment in my life.

I had left England six years prior to come to the United States, like millions of immigrants before me, in the hope of seeking independence and opportunities that because of my "class" I could scarcely hope for in my native country.

I had always felt the pull of military service calling to me, but it wasn't until I came to America that I knew this was where I belonged.

I was finally home.

The United States was a country born out of repression and dictatorship – from my own country - that took the Patriots of our nation, ordinary men and women, to give of themselves completely and unselfishly in order to gain our country's liberty.

Now, nine years later I find myself serving beside the men and women of Ali Base, in a country that has suffered for many years,

at the beginning of another journey - the journey of a new, free Iraq.

Like our forefathers, the men and women of Iraq struggle bravely for democracy, and just as America needed help during it's Revolutionary War from it's "coalition partners," so too does Iraq.

They need our help to bring stability to their country while they draft a constitution and rebuild their economy. Their fledgling government, under threat of death every day, fights to achieve a unified Iraq that reflects the will of the Iraqi people - where human rights are valued and political differences are respected.

So as we prepare to celebrate the day when the Patriots of the United States of America stood tall and proudly declared their inde-

pendence, let us not forget that the freedoms that we enjoy today were not gained in one day - just as the freedoms of the Iraqi people will take many years to achieve.

As Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafar recently told the United Nations, "The children of Iraq are just like yours – they don't want to lose their fathers and turn to orphans. The women of Iraq are just like yours – they don't want to lose their husbands and turn to widows."

No one said this was going to be easy; we know from experience that it's not. But one thing's for sure, every single one of us here today, through our love and devotion for our great nation, is willing to sacrifice so that one day Iraq, like us, will be free to enjoy ...

"...liberty and justice for all."

"...let us not forget that the freedoms that we enjoy today were not gained in one day - just as the freedoms of the Iraqi people will take many years to achieve."



Story and quote by Capt. Tracey Howell-LaPalme
407th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron commander

Being "one of them"

NCO believes in volunteering to give others chance to succeed

I remember the first time I was "one of them." I was 14 years old and we were living in the Netherlands. We were studying the Holocaust in school, and I learned at an early age the torture mankind could inflict upon one another.

My father came home one day and announced we were moving to Germany. I remember thinking, "Great! Another move... but the sports will be better because it's a larger school."

We visited with our next door neighbor shortly after my father told us, and I gleefully announced our

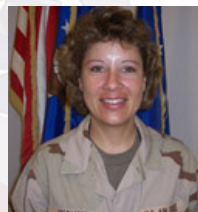
impending move.

Her face was stricken with horror. "How could you go live with them," she exclaimed.

I remember being confused initially, and then I understood. Tears ran down her face as she fled our house talking about her dog. I remembered her telling us earlier when the Nazis invaded that her family had to eat their pets in order to survive.

I felt sick; I didn't mean to hurt her feelings. This was supposed to be good for

"...the past cannot be changed, but together we can work towards the future and help our Iraqi countrymen succeed in gaining freedom."



Story and quote by Master Sgt. Kristy Walker
777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron first sergeant



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Deadline for publication is 2 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication. For more information, call 445-2318, or e-mail the staff.

See Them Page 5

NCO works to close chasm Them between two realities Continued from Page 4

our family. My father was getting a promotion and the school was larger.

I remember thinking, "That war was a long time ago, wasn't it?" Over and over in my life, I have either been told or felt like I was "one of them."

It happened the first time I worked with Meals on Wheels and delivered a turkey dinner in 35 degree weather to a woman, who had a broken ankle and was too poor to have it set by a doctor. As she yelled for us to come in, we couldn't help notice she had no heat.

It happened the night my husband and I delivered Christmas dinner to a family who greeted us (because he saw us as "one of them") with a shotgun on his porch.

It happens every time I work with the homeless in the shelters and the people on the street. Being seen as "one of them" doesn't stop me – it humbles me and reminds me of how fortunate I really am.

And, it just happened again recently.

Our Iraqi AF counterparts are living beside us but the chasm between our realities is vast. They are away from their families as we are, but their families are not safe.

Their children don't attend school for fear of being harmed or kidnapped by insurgents. They cannot walk the streets at night because of the violence. Now, they are afraid to answer the front door as they

may be greeted with a bullet between the eyes.

Right now by virtue of the country we call home, we all are "one of them."

Our families are safe. Many are planning summer vacations, swimming in pools or playing in the surf.

We have family and friends who send us care packages of "goodies" to remind us of home – a safe place we will soon return to after our stay in a country in chaos.

For many here our biggest concern is how high the mercury will climb today.

Words cannot express how important our mission in Iraq is now. All of us, from the security forces squadron patrols to the Services troops, are helping this country become free from oppression.

Sometimes we forget how fortunate we are, born in a country of promise and freedom. Americans are often viewed as "one of them."

A wise man on this base wrote in an e-mail recently, "For it is a noble thing to look past the fact that yesterday these were our enemies and today we help them overcome the effects of a tyrant," said Senior Master Sgt. Roger Rugotska, 777th EAS Advisory Support Team maintenance superintendent.

His eloquent words remind me that the past cannot be changed, but together we can work towards the future and help our Iraqi countrymen succeed in gaining freedom.

Maybe one day, we can all be "one of them."

Air Force leaders send Independence Day message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is an Independence Day message from Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

"This July 4th, we celebrate our nation's 229th year of independence. In those 229 years, the United States has embodied the principles of democracy and presented freedom's virtues for countless nations and people.

"Our road to democracy began with the original 13 colonies and hasn't always been easy. The United States has fought for her freedom and ideals whenever and wherever needed. We continue to do so today, with

Airmen deployed and engaged in the global war on terrorism.

"As you celebrate our independence this year, keep those who are serving far away from home, and their families, in your thoughts and prayers. Remember their sacrifices and the sacrifices of courageous patriots who came before them.

"You, America's Airmen, represent the very best we have to offer. Citizens of this nation and people of the world look to you as defenders of freedom. We couldn't be more proud of your strength and unity, and we thank you and your families for your selfless service. Have a safe and happy 4th of July!"

Compounds off-limits

The Italian compound, Camp Mittera and ROA (6⁰ Reparto Operative Autonomo) are off-limits to Air Force personnel assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group except for official functions. Personnel who wish to attend functions at the compound must have written approval from their squadron commander and must use the buddy system in the hours of darkness. The pizzeria is not off limits.

New flight med clinic hours

The new flight medicine clinic hours are Monday - Saturday at 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Monday - Friday at 6:30 - 8 p.m. The 86th Combat Support Hospital is open 24 hours a day. It is located on 6th Avenue (same road as the passenger terminal by the Ciano's pizzeria). For more information, call flight medicine at 445-2267/2617.

PERSCO corner

Career Job Reservation

First-term Airmen, did you know in order to reenlist you must have an approved Career Job Reservation? Airmen may apply for CJRs on the first duty day of the month during which they complete 35 months on their current enlistments (59 months for 6-year enlistees), but no later than the last duty day of the month during which they complete 43 months on their current enlistments (67 months for 6-year enlistees). Even if you do not plan to stay in, apply for your CJR anyway. You never know what may happen between now and your Date of Separation. Personnel can stop by PERSCO to fill out an application if within window. For more information, call 445-2716.

PERSCO Web site back online

The PERSCO deployed warrior's tool box is back on the base intranet at <http://intranet/PERSCO2/PERSCO%20DWT.htm>. The site lists helpful information like how to volunteer for an additional Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation, assignment preference worksheet, the pre-deployment guide, and the online version of the promotion fitness examination study guide.

Voluntary anthrax vaccinations resume

By Staff Sgt. Chyenne A. Griffin

Combined Air Operations Center

The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program officially resumed throughout U.S. Central Command Air Forces June 21 under an emergency use authorization.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia placed the AVIP on hold indefinitely in October 2004 prohibiting mandatory anthrax vaccinations; the safety of the vaccine was not a factor in the ruling. The FDA issued this temporary authorization to allow deploying servicemembers the opportunity to be immunized after determining that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks for its use.

Personnel moving to or deploying to Korea or to the Central Command area of responsibility (with the exception of the 40th Air Expeditionary Group) have the opportunity to receive the vaccinations up to 60 days prior to their date of departure. Servicemembers currently in theater will be offered the vaccine as well.

"The new anthrax program is voluntary

While the emergency use authorization is in place, personnel may decline the anthrax vaccination without adverse personnel action. Declining the vaccine will not affect deployment eligibility.

The latest guidance is available in the form of a trifold pamphlet titled "What You Need to Know About Anthrax Vaccine," dated April 5, and every servicemember will receive this pamphlet.

Here at Ali, the pamphlet distribution for the U.S. Air Force will start July 1. It is mandatory that every Airmen receives and signs for this pamphlet by July 22.

Once Airmen have the pamphlet, he or she can decline the vaccination or go to the 86th Combat Support Hospital vaccination clinic (Monday – Friday from 1 to 2 p.m.) to receive the vaccination.

All U.S. Air Force personnel will then be updated in the Air Force Complete Immunization Tracking Application. This ensures Airmen don't show up on a commander's overdue list and are not tagged for a repeat visit to a medical treatment facility.

If the individual elects to be vaccinated,

"The new anthrax program is voluntary and the decision is a personal one that everyone needs to make on their own."

– Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander.

and the decision is a personal one that everyone needs to make on their own," said Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander.

"If you need help in making that decision, I suggest you read about the safety of the vaccine on the AVIP web site, and talk to your supervisor, first sergeant or commander. If you still are undecided, talk to the doctors here or come talk to me. There are various ways to get your questions answered and I encourage you to seek them out, so you don't have any doubt left in your mind prior to taking the vaccine."

To get full protection, personnel need six doses given over an 18 month period – day one, two-week, four-week, six-week, 12- and 18-months, followed by annual boosters. Previously vaccinated Airmen will pick up where they left off in the program – starting over is not necessary to get full protection.

compliance with the dosing schedule will be tracked through AFCITA.

Individuals who elect to not receive the vaccine at this time can change his or her mind at any time and elect to receive the vaccine by simply visiting the vaccination clinic here or elsewhere.

"Military and civilian leaders strongly recommend the anthrax vaccination," said Lt Col. (Dr.) Len Profenna, 777th EAS Flight Surgeon. "Each Airman must read the brochure and make an informed decision. The vaccine has been proven safe time and time again, and U.S. CENTCOM airmen are still at risk of an anthrax attack."

The issue of mandatory vaccination will be reconsidered by the Department of Defense when the Food and Drug Administration completes their administrative review, expected to be later this year.

For more information on the program, call the clinic at 445-2267/2617.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANTHRAX VACCINE



**5 April 2005
EUA Edition**

Update

US military forces are at risk of attack with anthrax spores. A significant potential for a military emergency exists.

The FDA Commissioner granted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for anthrax vaccine to prevent inhalation anthrax.

Your military and civilian leaders strongly recommend anthrax vaccination.

An Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program trifold like the one pictured above will be handed out to Airmen. It is mandatory that every Airmen here receives and signs for the information by July 22. The anthrax vaccination program is now voluntary, and Airmen must sign to decline or receive the vaccine.

Check out the following sites:

- 407th AEG Intranet at <http://intranet/EMDG/Anthrax%20Ind%20Brief%20Apr%2005.ppt> or click on "Ali Medical Services" and then "Anthrax brief"
- Military Vaccine Agency at www.anthrax.af.mil or call toll-free 1-877-GET-VACC
- DoD Vaccine Healthcare Center – www.vchinfo.org or call 202-782-0411
- Center for Disease Control Hotline – www.bt.cdc.gov or call toll-free 1-800-232-2522
- For information about vaccine or policy, go to Military Vaccine (MILVAX) Agency: Website: www.anthrax.mil and www.vaccines.mil, e-mail Vaccines@amedd.army.mil or call toll free 1-877-GET-VACC
- For medical advice about your vaccination, call DoD Vaccine Clinical Call Center at toll free 1-866-210-6469
- For clinical consultation or exemption assistance, DoD Vaccine Healthcare Centers at www.vchinfo.org, e-mail askvhc@amedd.army.mil, phone 1-202-782-0411
- CDC National Immunization Hotline at 1-800-232-2522



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

Touch up

Staff Sgt. Robert Lahrman, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and Focus 56 member, touches up the 407th Air Expeditionary Group crest on the group headquarters building. Focus 56 is a professional organization of junior-ranking noncommissioned officers in the rank of E-5 to E-6, who are the critical link between Airmen and senior leadership, with the ability to affect positive change at Ali Base. The organization touched up three 407th AEG crests. Focus 56 meetings are held Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the chapel annex. For more information, contact Focus 56 president Tech. Sgt. Reginald Ellis, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, at 445-2753.



No-go for Grab-n-go sandwiches

Rumor

Is it true we are asking the Army to set up a "Grab and Go" for sandwiches in Bedrock?

Fact

No, this isn't true. The U.S. Central Command Air Forces has designated the Army as the lead service for Logistical Support Area Adder which encompasses Ali Base. As the lead service, the Army is responsible for providing dining facilities and services to United States and coalition forces as well as designated civilian agencies. It does this through Kellogg Brown and Root, a contract company. The current contract only requires KBR to provide food service at the dining facility and the Army has not expressed any interest or desire

to expand the contract beyond the DFAC. In addition, opening a contractor run food operation in Bedrock has other challenges that include infrastructure (utilities and facilities), sanitation, and security escort requirements for third country nationals and Iraqi nationals who are employed or will soon be employed by KBR. As a key base in southern Iraq, the Army is developing expansion plans that include the construction of additional dining facilities for the population. This should ease some of the access challenges. While this won't help the current rotation, it will benefit future residents.

Can we get a coffee bar here?

Rumor

Is it true Services is trying to acquire an AAFES-sponsored coffee bar (no food provided)?

Fact

We have asked Services to explore the possibility of opening a coffee bar in Bedrock. Like the "Grab and Go" question above there are still force protection, TCN escort, infrastructure and sanitation questions that need to be addressed. Despite this we are trying to see what's in the realm of the possible.

Today's rumor control was answered by Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander.

Heard a rumor...

Don't speculate! Get the facts by e-mailing the Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil or call Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson at 445-2027.

Promotions

JUNE

Staff Sergeant

Timothy T. Eraker, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Technical Sergeant

Robert J. Sandoval, 407th ECES

JULY

Airman 1st Class

William J. Morgan, 407th ECES

Jon D. Wilcox, 407th ECES

Senior Airman

Michael A. Anderson, 407th ECES

Roberto J. Anaya, 407th ECES

Jonathan U. Davis, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Rebecca A. Riddick, 407th Air Expeditionary Group

Staff Sergeant

Jared Hershberger, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Technical Sergeant

Walter M. Anderson, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Craig J. Tocci, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Master Sergeant

Hector Herrera, 407th ELRS

Major

Michael S. Miller, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

Awards

Airman of the month

Senior Airman Michael McGraw, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

Noncommissioned officer of the month

Tech. Sgt. Carl McCoy, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Senior NCO of the month

Master Sgt. Samuel Olvera, 407th ECS

Company Grade Officer of the month

Capt Teresa Rose, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Saber Team of the month

407th ECS Base Infrastructure and Radio Team. Team members are Tech. Sgt. Jason Mattison, Tech. Sgt. Timothy G. Messman, Tech Sgt. Mark Morris, Staff Sgt. Larry E. Phillips, Staff Sgt. Scott Ekleberry, Staff Sgt. Juan Toro, Staff Sgt. Timothy Helbing, Senior Airman Michael McGraw, Senior Airman Benjamin Abbott, Senior Airman Joshua Jacobs, Airman 1st Class Casey L. Arnault, Airman 1st Class Joshua C. Stewart, Airman 1st Class Stephen L. Mears and Airman 1st Class Louis Lindsay.



Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

(Middle) Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael L. Dominguez presents the Sharp Saber Team award to (left) Tech. Sgt. Jason, Mattison, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, and (right) Tech. Sgt. Timothy Messman, 407th ECS, Wednesday.

Ali Speaks

What does July 4 mean to you?



Senior Airman Anthony Crone, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron
"It means the freedom and independence that we have to do the things we do now."



Maj. Carl Alvarez, 407th Air Expeditionary Group
"It represents a monumental struggle by our forefathers to fight against a repressive government on their own."



Staff Sgt. Denise Caspers, 407th Expeditionary Group
"It's a day to remember those who fought and continue to fight to secure our liberties."



Staff Sgt. James McBride, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
"It means the patriotism of the flag to me. It's everything we ever fought for and what we're doing over here."

CE unearths active bomblets

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

It was a busy weekend for civil engineers here.

And it wasn't the fun kind of busy where unit personnel attended barbecues and kick back to watch a couple of sports games. It was the dangerous kind of busy.

Civil engineers unearthed multiple hazardous BLU-97 Combined Effects Munitions bomblets Friday and Saturday.

"I was directing two Airmen and one was driving a loader, when he pushed dirt and exposed a small section of an object," recalled Tech. Sgt. Scott Austin, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron deputy noncommissioned officer of pavement and equipment shop who was leading a beautification project June 25.

"When I got up close, I read 'bomblet' right on it, and I yelled for both of my troops to get back as fast they could," said Sergeant Austin. "Then I took off running for the pavement and notified the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) flight.

"I was pretty scared, but it didn't really set in until EOD explained the lethality of the bomblet and how unstable it is. Absolutely never touch anything you even suspect could be an explosive."

Making matters worse, Sergeant Austin knew bomblets don't typically travel alone; they bring 150 to 200 buddies with them wherever they fall.

"When I realized all three of us were within 300 feet of the bomblet, and we could have all been killed it made me very nervous," Sergeant Austin said.

Due to the bomblets unpredictably, EOD blew the munition in place.

"It really hit home, when I realized EOD, who are trained to do the job, told me they don't like to get within 10 feet of it," said Sergeant Austin. "Master Sgt. Thomas Carroll from EOD asked me if I played the lottery. He said, 'You should today because you had some awesome luck.'"

The previous day, EOD also had an encounter with lady luck. While out checking over a stretch of land for another beautification project, they found the same type of bomblet.

Due to these recent discoveries, civil engineers are placing the land between Taxi-

way Bravo and Airport Road off limits to vehicle and foot traffic.

This installation was heavily bombed during both Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and the discovery of unexploded ordnance is not an uncommon site here.

"So far this year the EOD flight has been on approximately 150 explosive ordnance calls, an average of almost one a day," said Tech. Sgt. Paul Hohn, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron EOD technician. "When you're off the beaten path in areas not frequently traveled, especially on the outskirts of the base, be careful because you never know if there are any UXOs out there. Don't pick up anything that looks suspect and stay away from areas marked with unexploded ordnance caution signs on Perimeter Road on the south side of base."

Civil engineers caution installation personnel that even though most of the base is safe don't let complacency kick in when walking off paved roads.

"People need to maintain their vigilance at all times and remember that they are not in the States anymore. This is a war zone and there are plenty of UXOs to prove it," said Sergeant Hohn. "Review the UXO briefing on the intranet before you travel into infrequently-used areas of the installation; pay attention and look for markings that inform personnel about known UXO activity on base.

"Additionally, if you ever see a UXO, grab your Airman's Manual and use it to help you identify what you're looking at to better prepare EOD responders to quickly and safely resolve the issue."



Courtesy photo

Multiple BLU-97 Combined Effects Munitions bomblets, like the one pictured above, were found last Friday and Saturday here. If one bomblet is found, individuals should be on the lookout for others. The bomblets are normally released in batches of 150 to 200. Although most of the base is safe, base leaders caution individuals to stay on paved surfaces and take extreme caution when not.

If anyone sees or even slightly suspects they've encountered a UXO, they should report the information to EOD at 445-2012/2212, security forces at 445-2600, the command post at 445-2000, their supervisor and commander, and warn anyone in the area who could be harmed.

Dos

- Approach from upwind or crosswind
- Recognize by class, shape and size
- Remember features, colors and markings
- Mark UXO
- Depart upwind or crosswind
- Mark or barricade approach routes
- Report to unit control center when safe

Don'ts

- Touch or attempt to extinguish
- Move closer
- Transmit handheld radio within 25 feet
- Transmit vehicle radio within 100 feet

What to report?

- Location, cordon size, how UXO is marked and distance between UXO and marker
- Class or shape
- UXO features
- UXO condition (for instance is it leaking, intact or broken?)

Information obtained from Air Force manual 10-100, Airman's Manual



Photo by 2nd Lt. Matthew Schroeder

Busy worker bees

Personnel from the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group, who are forward deployed from the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing - an undisclosed main operating base in the Southwest Asia Area of Responsibility, set the foundation to pour concrete for the Mobile Aircraft Arresting System here. The MAAS is a safety system designed to assist fighter aircraft pilots, who have lost their breaking capability, slowly come to a stop. Similar to the system on Navy aircraft carriers, the fighter aircraft would drop its tail hook which then catches the MAAS cable that runs across the width of the runway. The emergency system is vital to saving pilot lives and critical resources. The Red Horse team started working on the project in late May and finished two weeks prior to their goal June 21. The team is comprised of civil engineers from Langley Air Force Base, Va.; Forbes Field, Kan.; Vermont Air National Guard, Vt.; Camp Murray, Wash.; Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio and Kelly AFB, Texas. The team is in the process of redeploying back to the 379th AEW.

No NASCAR points for Speeding at Ali

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Dineen

407th AEG ground safety manager

Are you a race car fan and enjoy sitting down to watch a hundred racers driving around a circular track to see who is the fastest?

It's not a bad sport to watch; it's actually exciting at times. Unfortunately for us at Ali Base right now, we do not have an official motor speedway here. This means that until such time exists, we're all going to have to drive according to the posted speed limits.

Now, I know that you're all thinking, "hey, I only do about 5 mph over the limit; no big deal."

Well, you need to realize that 5 mph slower can be the difference between a vehicle or pedestrian mishap and having a "close call."

Most of the roads around Ali vary between 10 and 20 mph, except Airport Road, which is 30 mph until you reach Bravo Ramp and then it turns to 20 mph.

Individuals are constantly walking back and forth across the road from their work center to the fuels area, so you need to ensure that you remember to slow down in this area.

The road leading to Bedrock from Broadway and 9th Street converts from 20 mph to 10 mph, yet I constantly see individuals traveling faster than 10 mph.

The Traffic Safety Working Group recently discussed speed limit changes in some



Courtesy photo

First responders arrive on the scene of a crash last year here. The driver was headed toward the dining facility and was driving 50 miles per hour in a 25 mph zone, when he rolled the vehicle.

areas, and the road leading to Bedrock will be one that is changed to 15 mph, and the area adjacent to Broadway and 9th will be posted as 20 mph. This will not take effect until the signs have officially changed, so until then the current speed limits are accurate and need to be followed.

The area from 10th Avenue to 7th Avenue, which is the road running directly in front of the dining facility, is 10 mph. This is a "high" foot traffic area and it is important to drive slower than the posted speed

limit during meal time hours.

It is just as important for the pedestrians to watch for traffic as it is for the traffic to watch for the pedestrians.

We have not had a pedestrian mishap at this installation yet, and I would like to try and keep it that way.

So remember, the only award you will receive here at Ali for speeding is the "High Speed Driving Award," or as it's more commonly known - a speeding ticket.

4th of July events special edition

Today

- 7 p.m., 7-man flag football tourney** at football field (behind softball field), runs July 1 – 2, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 7 p.m., 3-on-3 basketball TNY** at Sprung Center (Army indoor court), runs July 1-3, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 7 p.m., 6-man volley ball TNY** at Garrison volleyball pit, runs July 1-3, sign-up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 7 p.m., Softball playoffs** (cont) softball field continuation of Army softball season
- 7:30 p.m., Combat Bingo** at Big Top
- 9 p.m., Movie Night** at Big Top

Saturday

- 5 p.m., Dodge ball TNY** at Big Top, runs July 2 – 3, sign-up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 5 p.m., 3-on-3 basketball TNY** (cont) at Sprung Center (Army indoor court), runs July 1-3
- 7 p.m., Flag football TNY** (cont) at football field (behind softball field), runs July 1-2
- 7 p.m., Volleyball TNY** (cont) at Garrison volleyball pit, runs July 1-3
- 7 p.m., Softball playoffs TNY** (cont) at softball field continuation of Army softball season
- 7 p.m., 8-Ball TNY** at Hot Spot, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 8:30 p.m., Movie Night** (*GI Jane*) at Adder Commons

Sunday

- 6 a.m., 10K team ruck sack march** at Garrison Command, Bldg 327, weigh-in and showtime at 5 a.m., 5-man teams wear desert camouflage uniform with 45 pound ruck sacks and must finish as a unit
- Noon, Texas Hold-em' TNY**, DFAC large VIP room, first people who sign-up play (20 Air Force, 20 Army and 10 civilians/coalition)
- Noon, Chess TNY** at DFAC small VIP room, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- Noon, 3-point shoot out** at Sprung Center (Army indoor court), sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 1 p.m., Halo-2 TNY** at Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Center, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 2 p.m., 8-man Tug-O-War** at Garrison volleyball pit, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 2 p.m., Dominoes TNY** at DFAC small VIP room, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 3 p.m., 2-man Horseshoe TNY** at DFAC horseshoe pit
- 3 p.m., Spades TNY** at DFAC small VIP room, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 3 p.m., Dodge ball TNY** finals at Big Top, runs July 2-3
- 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., 4th of July weekend picnic** at DFAC
- 4 p.m., 3-Point shoot out finals** at Sprung Center (Army indoor court)
- 4 p.m., 3-on-3 basketball TNY** finals at Sprung Center (Army indoor court)
- 4 p.m., Volley ball TNY** finals at Garrison Volleyball Pit
- 4 p.m., 5-man stretcher relay** at DFAC, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 5 p.m., 5-man HMMWV pull** at DFAC, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 6 p.m., Awards Ceremony** at chapel
- 7 p.m., Soccer TNY** at Football Field (behind softball field), runs through July 4, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 7 p.m., 5-man floor hockey TNY** at Sprung Center (Army indoor court), runs through July 4, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 7 p.m., Softball playoffs** (cont) at softball field continuation of Army softball season
- 7 p.m., 4th of July observance** at Army chapel
- 8:30 p.m., Movie Night** (*In the Army Now*) at Adder Commons

Monday

- 6 a.m., 4-mile run and walk** at Garrison Command Bldg, sign up at Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 6 p.m., Home run derby** at softball field, sign up at Hot Spot (445-2306) or Garrison Command, Bldg 327 (833-1745)
- 7 p.m., Women's softball game** at softball field, Air Force versus Army
- 7 p.m., Soccer finals TNY** at football field (behind softball field)
- 8 p.m., Army Softball season Championship Game**, softball finals at softball field
- 8:30 p.m., Movie night** (*The Patriot*) at Adder Commons



Photos by Airman 1st Class Jamie Shultz



(Above) Tech. Sgt. Jason Mattison, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Base Information Infrastructure noncommissioned officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Juan Toro, 407th ECS BII technician, attach mule tape to route copper and fiber wire here recently. The project will increase the local area network and phone communications within several saturated areas of Bedrock, as well as allow Services to simultaneously broadcast movies showing at the Hot Spot's Cricket movie theater on Ali's American Forces Network channel. (Left) Tech. Sgt. Mark Morris, 407th ECS BII assistant noncommissioned officer in charge, pulls fiber optic cable here recently.

407th AEG Warrior of the Week Senior Airman Jennifer Morales



Unit: 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Duty title: Air traffic controller

Home unit: 39th Operations Support Squadron, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

Why other warriors say she's a warrior: She is responsible for the safety and control of more than 20,000 civilian and military aircraft transitioning 50,000 square miles of airspace over the bottom third of Iraq. Plus, she is active in both squadron and group activities

What is your most memorable Air Force experience: Joining the honor guard. Seeing the American flag presented to a family member or retiree always gives me a sense of pride and honor for serving my country.

Hobbies: Playing sports, going to the gym, playing bingo and making people smile.

Identify This



KNOW WHAT THIS IS? Each week, the "Ali Times" staff takes a photo from around Ali Base. If you can identify the object, e-mail us at Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block by 3 p.m. Friday. All correct entries will be placed into a box and **three winners** will be **randomly selected** at **Combat Bingo** at 7:30 p.m. at the Hot Spot. *Participants do not have to attend bingo to win.* The three winners will have their name printed in the Ali Times and **win a complimentary t-shirt or coin** from the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron. No one correctly guessed last week's entry of the vent grate on the top of a fan control unit. Better luck this week.

Just for Fun

Presented by the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Today

See July 4th special edition on Page 11

7:30 p.m., Combat Bingo at Big Top and a movie

Saturday

See July 4th special edition on Page 11

Sunday

See July 4th special edition on Page 11

Monday

See July 4th special edition on Page 11

Tuesday

5:30 a.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach

2:30 p.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach

7 p.m., Intramural dodge ball at the Big Top

8 p.m., Ping Pong at Hot Spot

10:30 p.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach

Wednesday

2:30 p.m., Pilates at Muscle Beach

7 p.m., Intramural dodge ball at the Big Top

8 p.m., Spades at Hot Spot

8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs at Muscle Beach

Thursday

5:30 a.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach

2:30 p.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach

5 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach

8 p.m., Madden Tourney at Hot Spot

10:30 p.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach

July 8

5:30 a.m., yoga (taped) at Muscle Beach

5 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach

7:30 p.m., Combat Bingo at Big Top followed by a movie

8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs at Muscle Beach

July 4th ceremonies

The 407th Air Expeditionary Group is hosting a reveille ceremony Monday at 6 a.m., and a retreat ceremony at 7 p.m. Both ceremonies will be held at the group flag pole in Bedrock.

Got ideas?

Give Services a call at 445-2696

The honor guard needs you!



Come join an elite group that pays homage to our nation and its heroes



For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Mike Radke, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron, at 445-2696.

Cricket Movie Theater

HOT SPOT

Today



The Aviator, 8 a.m., The story of aviation pioneer Howard Hughes famous for romancing some of the world's most beautiful women. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Alan Alda.



The Upside of Anger, 11 a.m., A sharp-witted suburban mother is left to raise her four headstrong daughters when her husband unexpectedly disappears. Things get even more hectic when she falls for another man. Starring Kevin Costner and Joan Allen.



Million Dollar Baby, 2 p.m., After being estranged from his daughter, a boxing trainer has been unwilling to get close to anyone – until Maggie Fitzgerald. Starring Hillary Swank and Clint Eastwood.



The Wedding Date, 5 p.m., A 30-year old woman hires a male escort to pose as her boyfriend for her sister's wedding to her ex-fiancé, who dumped her. Starring Debrah Messing and Dermot Mulroney.



Alexander, 8 p.m., Alexander, the King of Macedonia, overthrows world's largest empires. Starring Collin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer and Anthony Hopkins.



Hostage, midnight, Three delinquent teenagers take a family hostage forcing ex-LAPD negotiator back into the hostage business after two devastating deaths drove him away. Starring Bruce Willis and Kevin Pollak.

Saturday

The Upside of Anger, 8 a.m.

Million Dollar Baby, 11 a.m.

The Wedding Date, 2 p.m.

Alexander, 5 p.m.

Hostage, 8 p.m.

The Aviator, midnight

Tuesday

Alexander, 8 a.m.

Hostage, 11 a.m.

The Aviator, 2 p.m.

The Upside of Anger, 5 p.m.

Million Dollar Baby, 8 p.m.

The Wedding Date, midnight

Sunday

Million Dollar Baby, 8 a.m.

The Wedding Date, 11 a.m.

Alexander, 2 p.m.

Hostage, 5 p.m.

The Aviator, 8 p.m.

The Upside of Anger, midnight

Wednesday

Hostage, 8 a.m.

The Aviator, 11 a.m.

The Upside of Anger, 2 p.m.

Million Dollar Baby, 5 p.m.

The Wedding Date, 8 p.m.

Alexander, midnight

Monday

The Wedding Date, 8 a.m.

Alexander, 11 a.m.

Hostage, 2 p.m.

The Aviator, 5 p.m.

The Upside of Anger, 8 p.m.

Million Dollar Baby, midnight

Thursday

The Aviator, 8 a.m.

The Upside of Anger, 11 a.m.

Million Dollar Baby, 2 p.m.

The Wedding Date, 5 p.m.

Alexander, 8 p.m.

Hostage, midnight



Movies are subject to change due to availability



Today

Noon, Islamic prayer at mosque

6 p.m., Weekday Mass at AF chapel

6:30 p.m., Jewish Service at Army religious activity center

7 p.m., Abraham study at Army RAC

8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous at Army RAC

Saturday

5:30 p.m., Catholic confession at AF chapel/chaplain's Office

6 p.m., Catholic Vigil Mass at AF chapel

Sunday

7:30 a.m., Catholic Confession at AF chapel/chaplain's Office

8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass at AF chapel

8 a.m., Church of Christ Service at Army RAC

9:30 a.m., Traditional Protestant service at AF chapel

9:30 a.m., Contemporary Protestant Service at Army Post chapel

10 a.m., Latter Day Saints service at Army RAC

10:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass at Camp Cedar

1 p.m., Gospel Service at Army chapel

6 p.m., Contemporary Praise Team rehearsal at AF chapel

7 p.m., Contemporary Worship service at AF chapel

Monday

6 p.m., Weekday Mass at AF chapel

7:30 p.m., "God's Design for Your Dream Marriage" at AF chapel annex

7:30 p.m., Discipleship Bible study/fellowship at AF chapel

Tuesday

7 a.m., Weekday Mass at AF chapel

Noon, AA at Army RAC

7 p.m., Right of Christian Initiation of Adults at AF chapel annex

7:30 p.m., Creation Science DVD series at AF chapel annex

7:30 p.m., Combat Bible study at RAC

Wednesday

7:30 p.m., Creation Science DVD series at AF chapel annex

6 p.m., Weekday Mass at AF chapel

8 p.m., 40 Days of Purpose Bible study at AF chapel annex

Thursday

7 a.m., Weekday Mass at AF chapel

6:30 p.m., Ladies' Bible study at Army RAC

7 p.m., LDS study at Army RAC

7:30 p.m., Workman's Fellowship at Army RAC



Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 445-2006.

Inspirational moments... Observing life's lessons thru ants

Can you imagine living in the desert for a whole year observing the activity of a mound of busy fire ants?

Deborah Gordon of The Santa Fe Institute, N.M., did exactly that and discovered four main groups of workers: cleaners, haulers, gatherers and security ants.

Each category consisted of an ever-moving line of ants marching in cadence toward a specific goal.

Cleaners carried debris from inside the nest to a dumping ground.

Hauler ants circled the top of the mound clearing clutter from the entrance.

Gatherers marched off on time-consuming missions for food and security members fought off threats to the community at large.

How could one person observe so much?

Mrs. Gordon painstakingly painted a tiny dot of color on the back of each ant, to the tune of over 50,000 dots. The dots



None ran for cover, but scurried to and fro working to protect and serve each other. They overcame obstacles by fulfilling their own tasks, then helping fellow members of the community to excel at their tasks too.

enabled her to chart the course of each line of workers.

One of the most fascinating aspects of her study was watching the ants overcome obstacles and threats to their orderly world—a stick across the trail, invading insects, lack of water and fire.

Haulers immediately stopped to help gatherers; cleaners came to the aid of the security force.

None ran for cover, but scurried to and fro working to protect and serve each other. They overcame obstacles by fulfilling their own tasks, then helping fellow members of the community to excel at their tasks too. Mrs. Gordon called the ants behavior Complex Adaptive Behavior.

How adaptive are we when unexpected obstacles or events litter our path?

How do we react when people around us stumble?

What have we done this week to make our community and world a better place?

They're questions worth pondering.

Take the time to help out someone in need today!

Article courtesy of the Oasis of Peace Chapel